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Front Matter

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Front Matter

TOTEM: The U.W.O. Journal of Anthropology

Volume 22 – 2013/2014

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ABOUT THE COVER



Once again we are honoured to present, as our cover art, a painting by artist David Kanatawakhon. David is a Mohawk artist from Kenhtèke (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Territory), and also a lecturer in the University of Western Ontario's Department of Anthropology, Native Language Centre, specializing in Mohawk language and culture.

David has kindly allowed us to reproduce his piece, a design that depicts an elaborated Iroquoian water and earth design. He has written the following by way of introduction of his piece.

The geometric pattern at the base represents the waters that flow under the earth. Above that is the earth pattern represented by mountain designs, while the curling patterns depict the winds that blow about the earth.

This design is typical of the traditional clothing decorations used by ancient Iroquoian Peoples. This particular design would be commonly found at the base of a woman's dress or a man's kilt. It could also be used at a border design for a wearing blanket or in more contemporary times, a shawl. Prior to the European cultural invasion, designs like these would be fashioned from porcupine quill or embroidered using moose hair, coloured with natural dyes. Today, they are more apt to be presented using commercial beads and ribbons.

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From the Co-Editors

For twenty years now TOTEM has been publishing creative anthropological works written by students from across the globe. Contributions from all of the various sub-disciplines of archaeological, linguistic, socio-cultural and bioarchaeological research have provided readers with insight into the novel research of graduate and undergraduate students pursuing the study of humans and human behavior. Our goal for this issue was to expand upon the exemplary work of our predecessors and to further contemporary conversations between the sub-disciplines that challenge artificial boundaries which separate the insights of each from the others. There is a thematic thread then that runs through this issue that explores how language affects our understanding of bodies and biology, how new approaches to biology might alter our assumptions regarding human bodies and behavior in the past, and how challenging expectations becomes an essential ingredient in a healthy and broadly conceived anthropology capable of including diverse approaches as additive interventions.

We are very excited to announce the winner of this year's Editor's Choice Award, Julien Cossette for his paper entitled "How far is it?" which highlights the role of geo-technologies in recreational activities and employs a rigorous ethnographic method that combines an adept use of theory with the authors' fieldwork in a rarely addressed community; one which breaches the divides between online and "real" worlds, and reaches towards new ways of understanding personal risk and threatened places.

Furthermore, we would like to welcome Dr. Andrew Walsh as our unofficial TOTEM advisor, and we would like to thank him for taking an interest in the well-being of the student body at Western University by supporting one of its leading publications.

We received many interesting submissions this year and would like to thank everyone who chose to submit to TOTEM. Our authors did excellent work throughout the sometimes too lengthy review process and the peer-reviewers helped maintain the integrity of the journal through engaged and encouraging feedback. We thank everyone who contributed to this issue, all of the past editors, our colleagues and peers in the department of Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario. We hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to your submissions in the coming years!

José Sanchez & Ian Sorjo Grant Puppe
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